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A new milestone of Septimius Severus near Durostorum

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Anne Kolb

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**Anne Kolb: A new milestone of Septimius Severus near Durostorum,
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EDCS 01157 {Anne Kolb}

EDCS-ID: EDCS-76600347

dating: 199 – 200

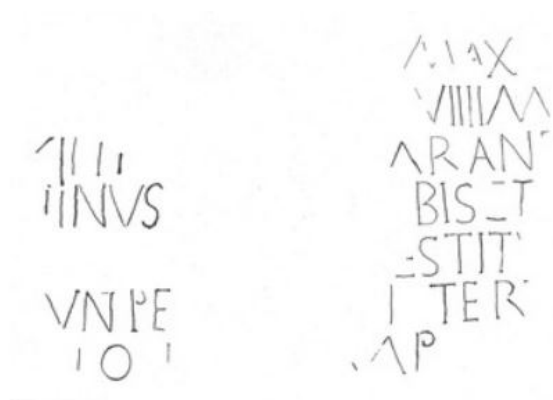
province: Moesia inferior

place: Silistra / Silistria / Durostorum

inscription genus / personal status: Augusti/Augustae; litterae erasae; miliaria; ordo senatorius;
tria nomina; viri

material: lapis





[Imp(erator) Caes(ar) L(ucius) Septimius] / [Severus Pius Pertinax] Au[g(ustus)] /
 [Arab(icus) Adiab(enicus) Part(hicus)] max(imus) / [pont(ifex) max(imus)
 trib(unicia) pot(estate)] VIII im[p(erator)] / XI p(ater) p(atriciae) e[t Imp(erator)
 Caes(ar) M(arcus)] A(u)r(elius) Ant[o]ninus [Aug(ustus) tr(ibunicia) pot(estate)]
 bis [[et P(ublius)]] / [[[Septimius Geta Caes(ar) Aug(ustus)]]] [r]estitu[e]/[r]unt
 pe[r C(aium) Ovinium] Ter[tul(lum) leg(atum)] / [pr]o [pr(aetore)] m(ilia)
 p(assuum) [3]

comment:

In 2016 two fragments of a milestone have been found at the bottom of the Danube River between Silistra / Durostorum and Vetren / Tegulicium. Thanks to this kind notice of Svetlana Gancheva (Regional Museum of History in Silistra, Bulgaria) it was possible to inspect the stone in Silistra in 2017 and prepare this publication; for her true help I like to thank Ursula Kunnert (Zürich). The two fragments of shell limestone are damaged, but only the bigger one (frg. a) bears an inscription. The measurements are: frg. a: height 114 cm, diameter 44/42 cm, letters usually 6/7 cm (except in the beginning of line 4 the numeral I with 8,5 cm). Frg. b: height 75 cm, diameter 42 cm.

The surface is very worn, therefore the reading is difficult and partly uncertain. The first line is visible only on a photo of Svetlana Gancheva of 2016; but later the stone was damaged on the upper margin. The exact traces of letters or parts of it can be identified in the drawing; in the beginning of line 7 the letters NT are connected in ligature.

The reconstruction of the text follows the formula of five other stones from the same road (Danube road) mentioning the same emperors and the same governor in Moesia inferior: EDCS-28500143; EDCS-28500144; EDCS-28500146; EDCS-11300667; EDCS-09100883. The consular governor C. Ovinus Tertullus was in charge of the office from 198-201 AD, see PIR² O 191; Thomasson, *Laterculi praesidum* vol. I ex parte retractatum 2009, 53f. n. 20:107, <http://www.isvroma.it/public/Publications/laterculi.pdf>

The dating 199-200 AD depends on the titles of Septimius Severus and Caracalla which are not congruent; but numerous such irregularities are known from other inscriptions of Severus and Caracalla see Kienast-2017, p. 29, n. 147: trib. pot. VIII from dec. 10 of 199-dec. 9 of 200 AD and Caracalla: trib. pot. II dec. 10 of 198-dec. 9 of 199 AD.

The road along the Danube is one of the major routes of the Balkan provinces which starts in the province of Moesia superior along the south bank of the Danube at Belgrade / Singidunum via Kostolac / Viminacium, both legionary fortresses, via Arčar / Ratiaria into the province of Moesia inferior. There

it went further along the river into the Black sea via Gigen / Oescus, Ruse / Sexaginta Prista, Silistra / Durostorum, Isaccea / Noviodunum. Since the time of the emperor Tiberius building operations are documented for this road at the Iron gate near Djerdap in Moesia superior mentioning the emperors: two inscriptions from the year 33/34 (EDCS-26600699; EDCS-76600347), then Claudius (EDCS-10000175), Domitian (EDCS-29601705), Traian (EDCS-26600700). In addition Traian had construction work arranged for a 3 km long channel next to the road in order to go around the rapids of Djerdap (EDCS-10000490) and the famous bridge of Apollodorus was built at Kostol / Pontes where still its remains are visible today. Other inscriptions probably related to these building activities are EDCS-27400514; EDCS-26600702; EDCS-29601705; EDCS-09401558; see M. Mirković, *Römer an der mittleren Donau*, Beograd 2003; M. Mirković, in: A. Kolb, *Roman Roads*, Berlin 2019, 237-244; V. Petrović, in: A. Kolb, *Roman Roads*, Berlin 2019, 258f.; generally for the road see M. Madzharov, *Roman Roads in Bulgaria*, Veliko Tărnovo 2009, 131-183.

From the stretch in Moesia inferior the earliest documents are milestones from the emperors Traian (EDCS-09100881, Musait-Dunareni / Sacidava), Hadrian (stone from Kozloduy / Regianum only in S. Mashov, *IMSB* 23, 1995, 537-540 [bulgarian], but inspected in 2018, with a slightly different reading see now A. Kolb, EDCS-76700106), Antoninus Pius (EDCS-16201653; EDCS-11300666; EDCS-03000792) and Marc Aurel (EDCS-29000009; H. und K. Skorpil, *IV* 5, 1912, 3f.B = A. Kolb, EDCS-76700107; EDCS-11300790; EDCS-11300791; EDCS-11300792).

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